



PTA Newsletter Article

### **Lighten Up – Bright Colors Help Cars Spot Walking Students**

We're finally through the darkest part of winter and the sun will be rising earlier through spring. But even with increasing daylight, it's still a good idea to keep kids in bright clothes when walking and biking during winter months.

Other ways to keep students safe when walking and biking to school this winter are the following:

- Follow the safest routes on your school's SNAP map (contact the school for your copy).
- Wear bright or reflective clothes so you can be seen in the dark too.
- Dress in layers and wear boots with nonskid soles.
- If you have a dark coat, add a brightly colored scarf or hat or reflective gear.
- Slow down. Wear gloves to avoid putting your hands in your pockets as they can protect you if you slip and fall.
- Walk with a buddy or group.
- Walk on sidewalks if possible. If sidewalks are covered in snow and ice and you must walk in the street, walk against the flow of traffic and as close to the curb as you can.
- Look left, then right, then left again when crossing a street.
- Cross only at crosswalks.
- Before you step off the curb into the street, make sure that any approaching vehicles have come to a complete stop where there may be ice and snow.

More ideas from UDOT's Student Neighborhood Access Program (SNAP)<sup>™</sup> to encourage your child to walk and bike are available at [www.udot.utah.gov/SNAPParents](http://www.udot.utah.gov/SNAPParents).